

Dear George, *Heuman*

11/18/80

When we last spoke I was in Georgetown Univ. Hospital for the kind of arterial bypass operation referred to on Morning today, reporter Crawford. I am also now one of those who has personal knowledge of the hazard of the bypass procedure, alas. While the operation was quite successful, the day I was discharged blood clots broke loose. Not all could be removed in the subsequent surgery. I have limited use of the left leg as a result and am almost never without some discomfort. There can be other consequences.

I had had some awareness of the use of the ^{balloon} balloon to expand the arteries and veins, as Crawford reported, but not of its success or problems it can present. (I do not recall inclusion of that latter in the item.)

One doctor was used on film. I presume that Crawford learned of more and that this might include some in the Washington-Baltimore area.

I'd appreciate any such names and other information Crawford may have because I may soon be looking for a second opinion. I hope not on the amputation of the leg!

They appear not to ~~favor~~ favor this procedure at Georgetown, although they used a form of it to try to remove the clots in the leg. My local doctor also has some questions about the use of the balloon technique where there is hardening of the arteries. My area. The surgeon at Georgetown is a fantastic man, with a deserved international reputation. However, I am not encouraged by not being able to detect any progress in the month I've been home and some risk might well be justified prior to amputation or as a substitute for it. So I'd appreciate anything Crawford might be able to provide so I can have a beginning for inquiry by my local doctor or me, especially if it leads to a Washington Hospital or Hopkins in Baltimore.

Thanks and best wishes,

Harold Eiseberg